



## Spaying Your Pet

**OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY** is the medical term for "spaying" the female pet. It is a surgical procedure that removes both the ovaries and the uterus. In the dog and cat, one of the major reasons for performing the sterilization surgery is to eliminate the annoying "signs of heat" which cause males to be attracted. If the uterus alone was removed, the pet would still "come into heat," but could not get pregnant. Removal of both the ovaries and uterus completely eliminate the annoying signs of being "in heat."

Prior to surgery, all patients receive a pre-anesthetic physical examination and ECG Screening. All potential problems result in a phone call to you and are thoroughly discussed at that time. Just as your own doctor would never take you to surgery without first running "screening tests," we RECOMMEND a presurgical blood screen to detect many potential problems. Not all veterinary clinics run these tests on a routine basis. It is an optional way you can increase the anesthesia safety for your pet.

The procedures are performed under "general anesthesia." Anesthesia choices used in our hospital are extremely safe in both the young and the senior pets. Newer anesthetic choices we use are much safer in older pets than other choices commonly used in veterinary medicine just a few years ago. Effective pain management is *always* practiced.

Surgery is performed in an operating room equipped with monitors, emergency equipment, oxygen and ventilation equipment, and the most modern surgical instruments available, including a **surgical LASER**. All surgery is done using sterile gloves and surgical instruments. In our hospital, the same instrument pack is NEVER used on more than one animal without re-sterilization. Our clinic is committed to quality and therefore maintains high standards for both anesthesia and surgical procedures.

After surgery, our staff carefully monitors each patient until fully awake and stable. No pet is dismissed from the hospital until we are satisfied that it is fully recovered from anesthesia.

Very little care is required at home after hospital discharge. Pets usually go home the same day as surgery is performed. Rechecks and suture removal in 12 – 14 days is included in the initial fee.

Since many people "price-shop" these procedures, we suggest you be sure all prices quoted elsewhere are "all inclusive," and that you tour the facility before making your choice.

### **Facts about Ovariohysterectomy**

**All female pets should have an Ovariohysterectomy performed for many reasons, including:**

- Prevents signs of estrus (heat).
- Prevents bloodstains on the carpet from the "heat" cycle.
- Decreases surplus of puppies and kittens.
- Decreases the chance of developing breast tumors later in life.
- Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections later in life.
- Anesthesia is a much lower risk at a younger age.
- Prevents breast development if done before breeding age.

### **Your community will also benefit!**

Unwanted animals are a very real concern. Most unwanted animals result from unwanted, or "surprise", pregnancies. Even the most vigilant owners of intact females will be unable to monitor, control, and intervene every moment and in every circumstance. Intact females are much more likely to roam, (possibly after escaping from their fenced yards) and therefore mate, despite our best intentions. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals will cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

### **Facts & Myths about Spaying:**

- Ovariohysterectomy does **NOT** cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and lack of exercise.
- Ovariohysterectomy does **NOT** alter personalities. Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will **ONLY** get better!
- Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is **ALWAYS** some **SMALL** risk when an anesthetic is used.
- It is much easier on the pet to have an ovariohysterectomy before going through a "heat" cycle, due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract. Best age to perform an ovariohysterectomy 3-6 months of age.
- Surgery is performed while your pet is under general anesthesia. Postsurgical pain is easily managed with appropriate medication.

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